(2) (*a*) There were 6 foot-bridges over the Ananta Victoria Martandan canal at the following places :—

i. 19th mile, Kollenkod.
ii. 20th mile, Martandanturai.
iii. 21st mile, Vallavilai.
iv. 22nd mile, Atichantura.
v. 23rd mile, Thattur, and
vi. 24th mile, Poottura.

(*b*) Only two of the six bridges exist now, *i. e.*, those at the 19th and 20th miles. The others are reported to have decayed and disappeared years ago through the action of the sea breeze.

(3) and (4) Petitions have been received in regard to the construction of a bridge at Vallavilai on the 21st mile of the Ananta Victoria Martandan canal. The exact number of petitions received during the last 18 years cannot be ascertained.

(5) Estimates for bridges at the 21st and 24th miles have been called for by the Chief Engineer.

Report of the Excise Committee.

120. **MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether final orders have been passed by them on the recommendations of the Excise Committee referred to in their review of the Administration Report of the department for the year 1101 ; and

(*b*) if not, the cause of the delay in doing so?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) Several of the Excise Committee's recommendations are, under instructions from the Government, being given effect to ; *e. g.*,

(i) the fee for licenses for the retail vend of foreign liquor has been raised from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200.

(ii) The reduction in the number of foreign liquor shops to two wholesale shops in the larger towns and one in other places and to one retail shop in the larger towns and none at all in other places is being given effect to.

(iii) The reduction in the number of arrack and toddy shops by 5 per cent. at the renewal of each biennial contract is being carried out.

(iv) The location of shops beyond two furlongs from public places is being enforced, wherever possible.

(v) The rule fixing the hours of sale in toddy and arrack shops up to 8 P. M. is being steadily enforced.

(vi) Liquor duties *i. e.*, duty on arrack and tree tax were raised at the renewal of the last biennial contract.

(vii) Occasional licenses for the sale of liquor at fairs and festivals are being refused.

The other recommendations of the Committee are under consideration by the Government.

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MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): With regard to the answer to parts (ii) and (iii), may I know whether the Government have noted that the quantity of liquor consumed is on the increase for the last five years?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It is not on the increase. It is fluctuating.

MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is not the quantity consumed increasing?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Sometimes it will be increasing, sometimes it will be decreasing.

MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to insist on the reduction in the quantity of the consumption of liquor simultaneously with the reduction in the number of shops?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That will be considered.

Report of the Excise Committee.

121. MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the date on which the Excise Committee submitted its report to the Government and the reason why final orders on the report are still delayed?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The Excise Committee submitted its report in November 1924.

The member is referred to the answer to question No. 122 asked by Mr. G. Narayana Pillai.

Lease of Lands for mining Monazite.

122. MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they propose to grant or have already granted any new lease for the mining of monazite in any part of Travancore, and, if so, to whom; and

(*b*) the area covered by the lease and the conditions subject to which the lease is granted or proposed to be granted?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

The Newspapers Regulation.

123. MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any prosecutions have hitherto been made under the Newspapers Regulation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

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